

13 September, 2020

To:

Governor Stephen F. Sisolak  
State Capitol Building  
101 N. Carson Street  
Carson City, NV 89701

From: Bishop Samuel Aikele

Re: Request to Increase Number of People Allowed to Gather

Dear Governor Sisolak,

I write to you today in support of relaxation on the current limitation on the number of people allowed to gather in our church congregation. We have currently been meeting with a maximum number of 50 people at a time. However, we have many more members who would like to meet each week but are unable to do so due to these limitations. Tithes and offerings are of no concern to me; I do not get paid for my service as a bishop to my congregation. My only concern is for the spiritual support and emotional health of my church members.

As we have already been doing, we remain deeply committed to ensuring that maximal safety precautions are taken. This includes social distancing, mask wearing, and sanitization of our facilities. We plan to continue to ban congregational and choral singing at this time. We have taken strong precautions to ensure member safety during the sacrament process; a process that will continue.

Sincerely,

Bishop Samuel E Aikele  
Hinckley Ward  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

THE CHURCH OF  
**JESUS CHRIST**  
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

LAS VEGAS NEVADA ELKHORN SPRINGS STAKE

September 13, 2020

Governor Stephen F. Sisolak  
State Capitol Building  
101 N. Carson Street  
Carson City, NV 89701

Dear Governor Sisolak,

The health and safety of our members is preeminent. We greatly appreciate the tireless efforts you and your staff have made to keep us all safe during these challenging times. We pray for you and all other government leaders to have the wisdom and judgement to make the difficult decisions you are called upon to make at this time.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has been prudent in navigating the pandemic with an abundance of caution striving to be good global citizens while being a part of the solution in working to protect everyone from becoming infected or spreading the virus. In fact, the Church's governing body suspended all in-person meetings and worship services before the government had ordered the same.

Since that time, we have been given permission to meet on a limited basis as long as we strictly adhere to local government orders, standards and guidelines. In our area of stewardship in Las Vegas, we have been successfully meeting for months now without a single new case of COVID-19 being spread to any of our members as a result of our meetings. While our members have not been immune to the virus, none of our members who became infected through means outside of worship or church activities spread the virus to others through worship services.

While we appreciate the opportunity to meet, we are responsible for more than 3,000 members that make up 8 different congregations. Our efforts to provide opportunities for all our members to gather and worship together has been lacking due to the current restriction of the number of people who can gather to participate in worship services.

Our chapels are built for a capacity of 230 people, meaning we could successfully gather safely by following all current guidelines with numbers exceeding 150 people. Additionally, our current meeting schedules are kept under an hour. And the buildings are cleaned and sanitized following every meeting.

To gather and worship together is a fundamental principle and tenant of our faith. We find strength, encouragement, and spiritual fulfillment as we gather and worship together. Our congregations are extensions of our families and support systems. Our spiritual health is enhanced through our worship services and other activities. Many feel our great state's citizen's spiritual health has been neglected during these last several months.

We implore you to ease the current restriction on the number of people able to gather for worship services for all faiths so long as they continue to follow all other guidelines. We desire to provide our members with the best possible spiritual experiences while ensuring their safety and wellbeing. We ask for your help in doing so.

Stake Presidency  
Las Vegas Nevada Elkhorn Springs Stake  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

THE CHURCH OF  
**JESUS CHRIST**  
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

LAS VEGAS NEVADA TULE SPRINGS STAKE

September 13, 2020

Governor Stephen F. Sisolak  
State Capitol Building  
101 N. Carson Street  
Carson City, NV 89701

Dear Governor,

We are living in unprecedented and difficult times. I understand that during a global pandemic we have many public health matters to consider. Throughout the last 6 months our church has followed the rules outlined by general church leaders and followed the parameters outlined by the governor's office.

As of August all of the congregations in our stake (or area) started to meet again inside our meetinghouses. We followed strict guidelines. 50 or less in the buildings, all must wear facemasks, all must use hand sanitizer, all must follow social distancing guidelines, no singing was allowed, meetings were limited to 30 minutes, and buildings were sanitized prior to and following each meeting.

This approach has been very successful. Our stake, throughout the pandemic, has reported less than 20 positive tests and no fatalities. (Out of roughly 3700 members) It is clear to me that we as a stake and as members of a church are ready to expand on the rule of 50. I am very confident we could expand that number to 100 and follow the same guidelines and have similar success in managing Covid-19 spread.

Our people need to meet and to worship. They have been very patient and are now ready to expand on their right to gather and worship. I believe we can do this and do it safely.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Blaine R. Hansen", written in a cursive style.

President Blaine R Hansen

THE CHURCH OF  
**JESUS CHRIST**  
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

LAS VEGAS NEVADA WARM SPRINGS STAKE

13 September 2020

Governor Stephen F. Sisolak  
State Capitol Building  
101 N. Carson Street  
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Governor Sisolak,

The purpose of this letter is to ask for you to relax the limitation on the size of religious gatherings currently in place for Clark County and the State of Nevada.

In order to meet the compliance needed for our parishioners safety we are currently adhering to the following guidelines and would continue to do so in our efforts to protect the health and safety of those attending worship meetings in our Chapels.

**Attendance and Seating**

- Building occupancy is limited to not exceed the State mandated maximum allowable occupancy attending our worship services.
- Seating is limited to every other row, with household members allowed to sit together, but individual households staged at least 6 feet apart.
- At the close of the shortened Sacrament (Worship) services the attendees are excused row by row, starting with the back row, with the encouragement to return home and not to meet others in the foyers or church grounds and socialize.
- Face coverings are required of all attendees.
- Those who are ill or who have knowingly been exposed to a carrier of the Covid-19 virus are asked not to attend.
- Designated doors are used for entering and exiting the building.
- Sacrament (Worship) services are shortened and are the only meeting held.

**Cleanliness, Sanitization and Social Distancing**

- The Chapel is cleaned prior to and after each worship service per church directives and guidelines provided. Many rooms throughout the building are closed to limit access.
- Hymn books have been removed and no singing of hymns is allowed.
- No printed programs or announcements are distributed.
- Social distancing according to State and County guidelines is required. This includes the 6-foot rule for all attendees and those presiding, conducting or otherwise participating in the service.
- We discourage members from bringing food and drink to these shortened meetings.
- Only those directly participating in the meeting are seated on the stand.

THE CHURCH OF  
**JESUS CHRIST**  
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

LAS VEGAS NEVADA WARM SPRINGS STAKE

The ability to gather and worship is a fundamental foundation of society. I am certain the members of our congregations are most eager to have the opportunity to worship, gather, encourage and strengthen one another.

On behalf of the members of the Warm Springs Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, I humbly submit this petition requesting your approval allowing gatherings larger than the current number of 50 individuals.

Humbly Submitted,

*Kyle R. Peterson*

Kyle R. Peterson

Stake President

Las Vegas Nevada Warm Springs Stake

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

THE CHURCH OF  
**JESUS CHRIST**  
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

Stephen F. Sisolak  
State Capitol Building  
101 N. Carson Street  
Carson City, NV 89701

September 13, 2020

Dear Governor Sisolak:

We are writing to you regarding the importance of lifting the current restrictions in place on the number of individuals who may gather for church services at this time. We recognize the importance of taking precautions to slow the spread of COVID-19 and do our part to flatten the curve. We believe these goals can still be achieved while softening the current restriction of only admitting fifty (50) individuals to church services.

As the Las Vegas Nevada South Stake Presidency, we oversee ten (10) congregations in three (3) buildings in Las Vegas and would like to briefly detail the steps we have taken in these congregations to do our part to slow the spread of COVID-19. We have reviewed and followed all direction provided through Emergency Orders and believe we have implemented procedures to keep our members as safe as possible during this trying time. We are committed to continue to follow all conditions enumerated in all Emergency Directives.

First and foremost, we have strictly complied with the current restriction of only admitting fifty (50) individuals to our church buildings at any given time. While each of our congregations includes more than fifty (50) individuals, the congregations have been split into smaller groups so that there are never more than fifty (50) individuals in one of our buildings at any given time.

We have posted signage in all our buildings informing individuals of the current limit of fifty (50) individuals. These signs also request that all who enter where a face covering in compliance with Emergency Directive 024. Any individual who arrives at one of our buildings without a face covering is informed of the requirement and is provided with a face mask if they do not have one of their own. Additionally, we have provided hand sanitizer dispensers at all entrances to allow individuals to properly sanitize easily.

To ensure social distancing is maintained in our buildings, we have designated one set of doors as an entrance and one set of doors as an exit. This way traffic can flow in one direction and

unnecessary interactions are limited. The entrance and exits are clearly marked so all who arrive can help maintain appropriate social distancing.

During our meetings, we have eliminated all congregation or choir singing as an added precaution at this time. We are currently using piano and organ music unaccompanied by any singing for music during all of our meetings.

In our chapels, we have placed signs on each of the pews indicating where individuals should sit to maintain the appropriate social distance. We have closed every other pew and are requiring individuals to sit at least six feet from anyone not in their household.

We have implemented additional cleaning procedures to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. At the conclusion of each meeting, all surfaces are cleaned and sanitized before the next meeting begins.

As an added precaution, we have encouraged all members with pre-existing conditions or who are at high-risk for complications from COVID-19 to not attend meetings in person at this time. We have provided opportunities for these individuals to participate remotely in a home-centered worship. We have encouraged all members who exhibit any signs of COVID-19 or who have recently been in contact with someone who has tested positive to stay home.

An important part of our worship services is the opportunity for all present to partake of the sacrament (communion). We have undertaken additional safety precautions during this sacred ordinance to protect all present. Any individual exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 is not permitted to participate in preparing or administering the sacrament. Those administering the sacrament are required to wear face coverings and food preparation gloves. Prior to putting on the gloves, these individuals must sanitize their hands. The sacramental bread and water are being placed on trays in single-serve cups and spaced to prevent cross-contamination. Those passing the sacrament offer the bread and water on one tray and carry a second tray for the disposal of the cups. Parents of small children are encouraged to take the emblems from the trays for their smaller children.

THE CHURCH OF  
**JESUS CHRIST**  
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

We know it is important for members of our congregation to meet together in regular meetings and are committed to upholding all required safety precautions. We believe at this time the current limitation of fifty (50) individuals per worship service can be lifted or softened. Our buildings can hold additional individuals while maintaining all required social distancing requirements and we are committed to upholding these requirements to protect our members.

Sincerely,

Las Vegas Nevada South Stake Presidency

Chris Davies, President

Steven Anderson, First Counselor

Jack Crowder, Second Counselor



THE CHURCH OF  
**JESUS CHRIST**  
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

Las Vegas Nevada Meadows Stake

September 13, 2020

Attn: Governor Stephen F. Sisolak  
State Capitol Building  
101 N. Carson Street  
Carson City, NV 89701

Dear Governor Sisolak,

I hope this letter finds you well during these ever-changing and challenging times. The purpose of this letter is to encourage you to relax the current limit on the number of people allowed to gather for worship services.


The eight congregations that I am responsible for and oversee have been following the regulations put in place for Nevada to keep citizens safe and flatten the curve of COVID-19. I personally do, and will continue to, impose and enforce your directives such as social distancing, mask-wearing and sanitization of meeting houses.

I feel that we can now safely worship in gatherings of larger than fifty people. Our chapels have plenty of seating for easily more than 2-3 times the current number to 6 feet social distance. All are required to wear masks and social distance; and those preparing and passing the Sacrament are limited to a very small number and they wash and sanitize their hands then wear disposable gloves. After the worship service the congregation leaves in an orderly manner to return home.

The past several months I have seen in a very real way the importance of people to worship with other people. I am beginning to see significant emotional and family decay as well as growing hopelessness to name a few. With the current limit of fifty people, most are limited to participate in worship services to only once per month as we are not able to accommodate the approximately six hundred people that would previously worship on a Sunday over 3-4 different time slots.

Increasing the worship gathering size would not only benefit those who participate but the entire community in which we reside. We are a family, community and service minded church. I hope you find this helpful as you govern our great state. Please feel free to have someone reach out to me if they would like any additional information.

Sincerely,



President David Brady  
Las Vegas Nevada Meadows Stake  
Cell: 702-493-7759  
Email: davidbrady@bradyrg.com

THE CHURCH of  
JESUS CHRIST  
of LATTER-DAY  
SAINTS

HENDERSON NEVADA BLACK MOUNTAIN STAKE

September 12, 2020

Governor Sisolak,

I am writing to you today as an ecclesiastical leader for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, encouraging a lifting of the current gathering restrictions placed upon members of all churches. Members of all denominations have a common goal of meeting together to worship God.

The congregation over which I preside, the Black Mountain Stake, is located within the City of Henderson. The Black Mountain Stake is made up of over 3100 members, divided into seven (7) smaller units (wards). Each ward ranges from the largest, 581 to the smallest at 356.

Religious gathering of our members is a critical and an essential part of our worship. We meet together to be uplifted and strengthened, to "bear one another's burdens" and to renew sacred covenants with the Savior by partaking of the sacramental emblems of bread and water. While some of these essential parts of worship can be accomplished in groups of 50 or less, others cannot be sufficiently met with those small numbers.

I am thoroughly cognizant of the need to protect the health and safety of those members of the congregations over which I preside. As such, we have implemented numerous safety precautions within our church buildings, including purchasing proper sanitizing equipment and cleaners, training members on how to properly sanitize the buildings, providing hand sanitizing stations throughout the buildings, marking seating areas for proper social distancing, etc.

As we returned to limited meetings under the 50-person directive, I have been extremely impressed with the members' willingness to do all they can to keep everyone safe. Everyone attending meetings has worn a mask. We have refrained from singing while, at the same time, we have provided beautiful, sacred and uplifting music through our talented organists. The members clearly, and understandably, just desire to be worshipping together.

At this point in time, I believe we have perfected the means and procedures for safely gathering together with many more than 50 people. The capacity of our buildings far exceeds the current 50-person limitation, even with the established social distancing protocols in place. As we have the opportunity to increase our numbers, we will certainly continue to follow those safety protocols.

Please consider this request. The members of the Black Mountain Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are good, law-abiding citizens. With that in mind, you can be assured that as the current limitations are lifted, we will continue to put everyone's health and safety at the forefront of our minds as we meet together to worship God.

Sincere Regards.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Hedger', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Douglas W. Hedger  
President of the Henderson Nevada Black Mountain Stake  
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

**Jim Gibson**

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**From:** Kelby Robison <ov1krobison@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 13, 2020 9:09 PM  
**To:** Jim Gibson  
**Subject:** Religious services

Mr. Jim Gibson,

I am writing to request allowing religious meetings of up to 99 people. We have and will continue to maintain social distancing and will wear masks to protect ourselves and one another. This change will allow greater strength for our members and service to society in general. Thank you and may God bless and strengthen us all.

Sincerely,

Bishop Kelby Robison  
Mormon Mesa Ward  
Logandale NV Stake

**Jim Gibson**

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**From:** Monte Bledsoe <mbledsoe@mvdsl.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 14, 2020 7:48 AM  
**To:** Jim Gibson  
**Subject:** Letter to governor

Church of Jesus Christ Of Latter Day Saints  
Moapa Valley Young Single Adult Branch

Governor Sisolak,

This letter is a request to increase the number of people allowed to gather for religious gatherings. We have been effectively adhering to the Covid guidelines of mask wearing, social distancing, and cleaning and have been strengthened spiritually, mentally and physically by being able to gather in person. Now that we have successfully implemented and practiced the guidelines we feel that we can safely accommodate an increased number in our congregation. PLEASE increase the acceptable number.

Respectfully,

President J. Monte Bledsoe

Sent from my iPhone

THE CHURCH OF  
**JESUS CHRIST**  
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

Las Vegas Nevada Lakes Stake

September 13, 2020

Re: Worship Service Guidelines

Dear Governor Sisolak,

I respectfully request that the guidelines regarding in-person worship services be revised to accommodate gatherings of up to 50% of a chapel's or meeting room's capacity, provided that this limit allows for appropriate physical spacing between worshipers from separate households.

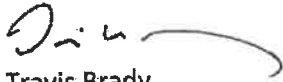
We have been holding in-person worship services of up to 50 total people since late July and have been strictly adhering to the guidelines prescribed. Specifically, we have required all in attendance to wear a face covering; we have provided hand sanitizer stations at entrances and at other highly visible locations; we have sanitized microphones and pulpits between speakers; we have refrained from singing aloud and have limited music to instrumental renditions; we have discouraged shaking hands, hugging and other close physical contact; we have taken special precautions related the administering the sacrament that prevents contamination or person contact; we have shortened the meeting time to between 35-40 minutes; we have maintained physical spacing while in the meetings and have spaced out entering and exiting the building; we have cleaned and sanitized meeting spaces between sessions.

Despite the special and unique protocols that have been taken, our meetings have been encouraging and uplifting and have provided a needed respite for our members in attendance. Most of our congregations have between 150 – 250 members that would like to attend. The 50-person limit has made it difficult for many of these members to attend. The 50% of total room capacity limit would accommodate most of our members while still maintaining appropriate spacing between members living in different households. We will continue to follow the protocols described above and will limit numbers where space is not large enough to provide proper spacing.

We greatly appreciate your consideration in this matter. I can't imagine the challenge that it must be leading our state through such an unprecedented time. In addition to seeking to become more faithful and faith filled in our individual lives, we are also committed to being

good citizens in our community. I am available to answer any question, if desired, and stand ready to help our community, as needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Travis Brady", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Travis Brady  
President, Las Vegas Lakes Stake

THE CHURCH OF  
**JESUS CHRIST**  
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

Las Vegas Nevada Central Stake

Governor Stephen F. Sisolak  
State Capitol Building  
101 N. Carson Street  
Carson City, NV 89701

To: The Honorable Steve Sisolak, Governor of the State of Nevada,

This letter is to respectfully request an increase to the number of individuals that can participate in worship services for Sabbath day observance. For the last six weeks of worshipping together, our members have felt greater hope and a better sense of community. During that time, we have limited our worship services to 45 minutes with less than 50 members attending and have adhered to the following guidelines:

- Individuals who do not feel well, who have been asked to self-quarantine and those who exhibit symptoms of fever, cough, shortness of breath, headache, running nose or sore throat are asked to not attend our services and remain at home.
- We recommend members taking their temperatures at home before attending a service.
- All those attending are to wear a mask.
- For the Service, at minimum all of the following safety measures are taken:

1.) Wipe down all surfaces including: exterior and interior door handles, pews where hands touch, microphone, podium, chair handles, organ, etc. 2.) Restrooms and drinking fountains are closed, except for emergency use after which both are disinfected. 3.) Members sit in every other pew to ensure social distancing at least 6 to 10 feet between all individuals not from the same household. 4.) The Organist plays prelude music or music is played by other electronic means but there is no singing during the service. 5.) After the meeting all surfaces are disinfected.

We have learned to be very proficient and effective at guarding the safety of the members. We would continue with these precautions if there was an increase in in-person availability. Currently, we report every week on how many COVID-19 cases there are and how many deaths. Thankfully it has been minimal, even though our parishioners reside in the 89110 zip code, which had been struggling according to the statistics provided by the State.

375 North Hollywood Boulevard | Las Vegas | Nevada | 89110



THE CHURCH OF  
**JESUS CHRIST**  
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

Las Vegas Nevada Central Stake

Each chapel in our area is at about 16% capacity as we follow the current guidelines by the State. Considering most of those coming to church are families, it has been very easy for us to physically distance families by more than 6 feet from other families or individuals and we could easily accommodate at least 100 members at each worship service and still adhere to the social distance minimums of 6 to 10 feet between all individuals not in the same household.

Thank you so much for considering an increase for the benefit of those who worship with us.

Sincerely Yours,



William Wells  
President  
Las Vegas Nevada Central Stake

THE CHURCH OF  
**JESUS CHRIST**  
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

HENDERSON NEVADA LAKE MEAD STAKE

September 11, 2020

Governor Stephen F. Sisolak  
State Capitol Building  
101 N Carson Street  
Carson City, Nv 89701

Dear Governor Sisolak,

I am writing this letter to request an increase in the number of church members allowed to attend Sunday services. I serve as the stake president of the Henderson Nevada Lake Mead Stake in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. In our stake boundaries there are nine units (wards) of the church who are currently attending services at three different buildings.

Since August 2<sup>nd</sup>, on each Sunday one of the wards holds from one to three different sacrament meetings with less than 50 in attendance. We have made extraordinary efforts to make sure that all safety guidelines and directives are followed specifically, and we have been extremely successful in doing so.

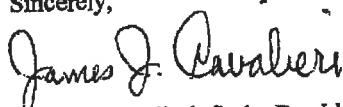
Anyone who attends a sacrament meeting is required to wear a mask / face covering. Personal distancing is required and every other pew is closed to seating to maintain six-foot of distancing. Hand sanitizer is located throughout the chapel area for hand cleaning. There is no singing of hymns, but the hymns (music only) are played by an organist, and all hymnbooks have been removed from our chapels. Members are seated and excused in an orderly manner to assure distancing. We clean the chapel and foyer areas including all doors, pews, podium, and light switches after each meeting is concluded, and prior to the next meeting beginning.

Currently we are only using the chapel itself for our meetings. In each of the three buildings in our stake there is a divider that opens into a cultural hall that can hold many more members of the church. Folding chairs are used for seating in this area and can be spread out sufficiently, and without any problem, to provide personal distancing. This area could be used to safely increase the number of members who could attend our services each Sunday to 100 or 150.

With the large number of members in each of our wards we can only meet one Sunday per month per ward with 50 or less in the congregation. Each ward has to hold several sacrament meetings on that Sunday due to only having less than 50 members in the congregation. The increase in members allowed to attend will allow our wards to meet on two, or in certain cases even three times per month versus one.

In the scriptures we are commanded to "meet together oft". There is great comfort and healing that results in coming together as a congregation, partaking of the sacrament, and meeting often as we have been commanded. I am a firm believer that the practical and spiritual work together. We have made the practical portion of following the safety guidelines and directives work without flaw. Now I respectfully ask you to consider allowing us to have the spiritual portion of our worship, our sacrament meetings regularly, with larger numbers in attendance.

Sincerely,



James J. Cavalieri, Stake President  
Henderson Nevada Lake Mead Stake  
1640 Rockinghorse Drive  
Henderson, NV 89002

THE CHURCH OF  
JESUS CHRIST  
OF LATTER-DAY  
SAINTS

LOGANDALE SECOND WARD  
Logandale Nevada Stake

Sept. 14 2020

Governor Steve Sisolak  
State Capitol Building  
101 N. Carson Street  
Carson City, NV 89701  
Re: Religious Gatherings

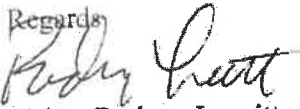
Sir,

I am requesting your consideration on allowing religious congregations to be allowed to meet up to 50% of our building capacities immediately.

We have been limited to no more than 50 people attend our meetings, since your Phase 2 reopening plan was issued. We have followed all guidelines, including social distancing, face masks, providing hand sanitizer and all entrances and exits, cleaning all surfaces before and after each meeting, not lingering to visit inside buildings, all to limit our exposure per directions..

We would respective ask you to consider allowing us to allow up to 50% attendance, based on our buildings capacity.

Regards



Bishop Rodney Leavitt  
Skyline Ward  
Logandale NV 89021



**ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE ORTHODOX CHURCH**  
P.O. BOX 12635 • 5400 ANNIE OAKLEY DRIVE • LAS VEGAS, NV 89112  
702.898.4800 • [WWW.LASVEGASORTHODOX.COM](http://WWW.LASVEGASORTHODOX.COM)

ARCHPRIEST JOHN J. DRESKO, RECTOR • DEACON ANDREW DEMKO

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September 10, 2020

Governor Stephen F. Sisolak  
State Capitol Building  
101 North Carson Street  
Carson City, NV 89701

Dear Governor Sisolak:

I am writing to urge you, with the recent upgrade to "Yellow Zone" by the White House of our state, to relax the current restrictions on the number of people allowed in a church building for worship. We have been following state directives regarding worship, including a limit of 50 people (about 25% of our normal attendance before the pandemic), physical distancing, mask wearing and disinfecting protocols. We purchased the same disinfectant used by airlines (at \$80.00 per gallon!) and use it twice a month despite instructions that once every four weeks would be adequate. The weeks between that use are cleaned with normal disinfectant. Hand sanitizer, alcohol wipes, and masks are available at the front of the vestibule as people come into the church. We have had no problems or outbreaks. Just a few parishioners had family members test positive, and they immediately informed me and voluntarily stayed away from our church building for 15 days. Our oldest parishioner, aged 91, came to church and was more afraid of the heat outside than the risk inside.

Governor, I urge you to reflect on the greatest gift that God has given to each human being — autonomy and free will. The adults in my congregation are smart enough and careful enough to protect themselves and others in our community. So am I. I would never do anything to knowingly put any of my beloved flock or our community at large at risk. They are also able to reasonably assess the amount of risk they are willing to assume to worship God. I do have people who have chosen to stay away since the shut-down back in March. I do not begrudge them their decision and try to minister to them as well as those who want to come to church services.

Please relax the restrictions on attending church services. Isolation and loneliness are as deadly as the virus. Let our faithful assess the risk for themselves and decide appropriately.

Sincerely,

*V. Rev. John J. Dresko*

Very Reverend John J. Dresko  
Rector

THE CHURCH OF  
**JESUS CHRIST**  
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

North Las Vegas Nevada Stake

September 12, 2020

Governor Stephen F. Sisolak  
State Capitol Building  
101 North Carson Street  
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Dear Governor Sisolak:

As a leader and minister to twelve congregations of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in the North Las Vegas, Nevada area, I have watched with great concern as the COVID-19 virus pandemic hit the Clark County area.

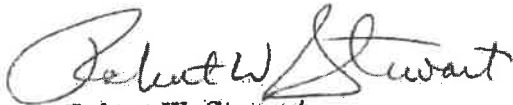
Under your direction and other federal, state government and health officials we went into lockdown in the early months of this year. We also followed our General Church leaders who mirrored any instructions that came from our local or federal government officials. We stopped all church worship services and other activities within our buildings and began to worship in our homes each week.

During this same period of time businesses were shut down, with eventually a slow re-opening for some. We also viewed with confusion as hundreds, if not thousands of people were allowed to protest in the streets violating your directive and nothing was said or done. Yet at the very same time tens of thousands of people of faith were not allowed to worship together.

In July we were excited that you opened up the State to gatherings of 50, and allowing people of faith to return to church under those standards. We prepared our buildings and our members to return to church worship services in a safe and sanitary way. We began meeting again on August 16<sup>th</sup> in groups of 50 or less. We have followed and will continue to follow all health and hygiene guidelines, including: masks, hand sanitizer, washing of hands, physical distancing, etc. We have asked that our members not sing during our hymns and choirs have been put on hold during this time. Our sacramental ordinances have been performed and will continue to be performed with the utmost caution and care.

I have strived to stay well informed on the status of the COVID-19 virus and have been very encouraged with what has happened in the past few weeks. All indicators have been in a downward trend within Clark County and in the State of Nevada for which I am grateful. With all due respect I request that you lift the current restrictions and allow us to meet as congregations of faith in a more meaningful way.

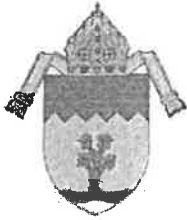
As people of faith, the members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in the North Las Vegas Nevada Stake will continue to pray for you, for those who have contracted the virus, the healthcare industry and those seeking a vaccine and other medications that will relieve our State and our Country of this virus and allow us to resume living more normal lives again. Thank you for your consideration of my request. May the Lord continue to bless you in these challenging times.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Robert W. Stewart". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Robert W. Stewart

President

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints -  
North Las Vegas Nevada Stake



Office of the Bishop  
PHONE: (702) 735-9605  
FAX: (702) 735-8941

September 11, 2020

Governor Steve Sisolak  
State Capitol Building  
101 N. Carson Street  
Carson City, NV 89701

Dear Governor Sisolak,

I am writing on behalf of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Las Vegas and the 700,000 Roman Catholics living within our geographic boundaries.

I am writing this letter with a particular purpose in mind.

Since the early weeks of the COVID crisis, the Catholic Diocese of Las Vegas has been guided by a Restoration Council under the competent medical direction of Dr. Jeff Davidson and Sandy Young, R.N.

For nearly five months, we have carefully observed strict protocols that are fully consonant with the national guidelines issued by the CDC and the Southern Nevada Health District, and include: screening temperatures, social distancing, wearing of masks, disinfecting between Masses, limitation of congregational singing, the discontinuance of Communion from the chalice, as well as the kiss of peace.

By this letter, we are joining our voices with spiritual leaders from a wide array of faith communities across Nevada, both asking permission for our communities to gather in greater numbers, and pledging our fulsome cooperation with the protocols and requirements described above.

Given the wide variance in the size of congregations, I propose that you consider allowing groups to gather at churches, temples, mosques, and synagogues at 40% of their published fire code capacities.

The people of the Diocese of Las Vegas are grateful to you for your commitment to protect public safety while safeguarding the economic needs of the Nevada communities.

Asking God's abundant blessings upon you and your family, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Bishop George Leo Thomas*  
Bishop George Leo Thomas, Ph.D.  
Bishop, Diocese of Las Vegas

Diocese of Las Vegas  
336 Cathedral Way + Las Vegas, Nevada 89109

September 11, 2020

Governor Stephen F. Sisolak

State Capitol Building  
101 N. Carson Street  
Carson City, NV 89701

Dear Governor Sisolak,

I am writing to you on behalf of the staff and congregation of My Father's House Church located in Las Vegas Nevada.

Our congregation has been working closely with the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department Southeast Area Command COP unit for several years partnering with them in seeing the crime rate drop in the SEAC area 43% in 2018 and an additional 17% in 2019. Although we are no longer able to hold monthly outreaches in the worst crime areas due to the Covid-19 pandemic we continue to serve in assisting Metro in their RECAP program and the Traffic Fatality Crashes as volunteers to assist those affected.

Currently we have responded to the pandemic by opening our doors when you as Governor authorized groups of 50 allowed to gather together. We have been able to accommodate attendees by having multiple services enabling proper social distancing and developed our social media and Internet broadcasting through streaming. All care will continue to be given in cleaning after every service and disinfecting according to the CDC guidelines; masks are worn, temperatures are taken, and appropriate questioning of our parishioners. All of this is watched carefully and enforced by our experienced staff.

I am asking you to consider expanding the number of people allowed to gather at churches due to Nevada being downgraded from the Red to the Yellow Zone. We would be able to encourage more of our members to attend services at the church to alleviate unnecessary emotional, physical and spiritual hardships due to being distanced.

Thank you for the hard work and tough decisions you have had to forge through to keep our city safe and for considering churches essential.

Respectfully,



Narciso (Jose) Boveda, Pastor

MY FATHER'S HOUSE CHURCH

3910 E. Patrick Lane - Las Vegas NV 89120 • 702-435-2700 • MFHLVNV@GMAIL.COM



THE CHURCH OF  
**JESUS CHRIST**  
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

LAS VEGAS NEVADA REDROCK STAKE

September 11, 2020

The Honorable Steve Sisolak  
State Capitol Building  
101 N. Carson Street  
Carson City, NV 89701

Re: Meeting Size Limits for Religious Services

Dear Governor Sisolak:

I am the volunteer ecclesiastical leader for the Las Vegas Nevada Redrock Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (the "Redrock Stake"). The Redrock Stake includes six different congregations located in the Queensridge and Summerlin area of Las Vegas, each of which is comprised of approximately 400–500 members of our faith.

I write to urge a relaxing of the current 50-person meeting limit imposed on religious gatherings. We recognize that the COVID-19 pandemic presents a legitimate public health crisis and that careful management of public gatherings is necessary to limit the spread of the virus. Our members are committed to doing what is necessary to help limit the spread and achieve the best possible outcome for Nevada.

The current 50-person meeting limit, however, is overly restrictive for our congregations given the size of our physical meeting spaces. At normal capacity, our meetinghouses are designed to accommodate between 200 and 300 people in the chapel, with overflow space that holds an additional 88–200 people. Given the scale of our facilities, we can easily accommodate meetings of 100 or more while observing (or even exceeding) all social distancing requirements imposed by governmental authorizes or public health agencies on other industries (including those subject to only a 50% capacity requirement).

Since we have resumed our Sunday meetings under the current 50-person limit, we have instituted detailed procedures to ensure that our services are held in strict compliance with all recommended or required guidelines for limiting the spread of the virus and that our physical space is properly sanitized and disinfected. For example, we have:

- Limited the seating in our chapels to ensure social distancing of all attendees;
- Ensured that all who attend our services wear face coverings;
- Made hand sanitizer available at all entrances;
- Modified the administration of our sacrament to ensure that is done in a completely sanitized and socially distanced manner; and

- Greatly enhanced the frequency with which our facilities are disinfected or sanitized, dedicating scores of volunteer man-hours each week and dozens of man-hours each Sunday to this effort.

In the Redrock Stake, we have invested significant time and other resources developing these procedures and acquiring the necessary material to ensure the best possible compliance with all guidelines and mandates imposed by governmental authorities or public health agencies. The team who put these guidelines together for our stake included medical professionals (including a member of the Board of Directors of one of our local hospitals), executives from one of Nevada's leading janitorial and sanitation companies (who supplied us with the latest products and data to ensure best practices for cleaning and sanitation), and lawyers (who advised us how to ensure strict compliance with all laws and regulations and minimize overall risk).

We believe that these efforts, combined with the size of the physical space in which we meet, will permit us to meet in larger groups while still ensuring the safety of all attendees and limiting the risk of COVID-19 exposure.

It is important for us, as members of the Church of Jesus Christ, to be able to come together, exercise of our faith together, and partake of the sacramental ordinance that is fundamental to our faith. Just like in the days of the Ancient Church, our desire is to do just that:

And the church did meet together oft, to fast and to pray, and to speak one with another concerning the welfare of their souls.

And they did meet together oft to partake of bread and wine, in remembrance of the Lord Jesus.

*(Book of Mormon, Moroni 6:5 – 6).*

We recognize that you have the responsibility to develop policies that best promote the safety of all Nevadans. We honor and respect the burden you carry and support our government's efforts in that regard. Our members have a long history of being good citizens, and one of our core values is to support our political leaders and to honor, obey, and sustain the law. (Art. of Faith 12). We are confident that, even with a meeting limit of 100 or more, we can honor all necessary restrictions to prevent the spread of COVID-19, and enforce stricter social distancing and sanitation guidelines than we currently see in other public spaces, such as airports, hotels & casinos, restaurants, and public protests.

We thank you for your efforts, and we pray that the Almighty will continue to bless and inspire you and your colleagues in leading Nevada through this crisis.

Sincerely,

/s/ Mitchell McClellan

Mitchell McClellan  
President, Las Vegas Nevada Redrock Stake

THE CHURCH OF  
**JESUS CHRIST**  
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

Henderson Nevada McCullough Hills Stake  
September 13, 2020

Governor Stephen F. Sisolak  
State Capitol Building  
101 N. Carson St.  
Carson City, NV 89701

Governor Sisolak,

In these times of disarray and confusion, we seek earnestly to be united. We seek to be "one". One in heart, might, mind, and spirit. As people of faith, the literal unification or gathering has been, and will continue to be an essential part of our worship. As we pledge allegiance to this great nation, we do so by recognizing that it was founded upon the belief that we are, and would continue to be "one nation under God."

Now, more than ever, our very livelihood depends upon us turning our hearts to something, someone greater than us all. It is our belief that God, our Heavenly Father not only has the power, but IS the power by which we find deliverance, peace, understanding, and unity. In order that we might more fully realize our rights and privileges to unite our faith, we petition you Governor Sisolak, to take action to relax the current standard of 50 person maximum gathering to allow for greater numbers.

We have shown strict obedience to guidelines given as we have worn masks, practiced social-distancing, and adhered to sanitization protocols. We desire to provide assurance that as the number of those gathering to worship increases, these safety methods and protocols will continue as deemed necessary.

We recognize the difficult decisions to be made in difficult times. It is our hope that you know of the prayers that are offered in your behalf and all those who serve in positions of leadership. We hope and pray that the decisions that are made for the "well-being" of our community come as a result of not only looking at the "facts" of the matter at hand, but also from seeking divine guidance.

We therefore, humbly request that you consider and take action on our petition to make a timely decision to increase the number of those able to gather in worship services from the existing 50 person maximum, as we commit to protect and provide safe conditions for doing so.

Respectfully,



Jason T. Morris  
President  
Henderson Nevada McCullough Hills Stake

Governor Sisolak,

Wards are the basic congregations of the Church. In wards, Church members worship together, partake of the sacrament, learn the gospel, and serve and strengthen each other.

The bishop holds the priesthood keys to direct the work of the Church within the ward. He and his counselors form a bishopric, which works under the direction of the stake presidency. They care for ward members with love and concern, helping them become true followers of Jesus Christ.

The Pioneer Ward has been operating its Sunday services at a capacity of 50 people or less while maintaining all the rules and regulations for Covid-19. Our ward has about 200 active members and we offer 4 services to give each ward member an opportunity to come and worship. We have been diligent in social distancing, cleaning, and sanitizing during and after each church service. We have the capacity to increase the number of members that can attend each service all while maintaining the Covid-19 rules and regulations issued by the Governor. We are requesting for the number of gatherers to be increased to 50% percent capacity of our building. Thanks for your consideration.

Aaron Walker  
Pioneer Ward  
Logansport, NV

THE CHURCH OF  
**JESUS CHRIST**  
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

Las Vegas Nevada Blue Diamond Stake  
September 13, 2020

Governor Stephen F. Sisolak  
State Capitol Building  
101 N. Carson Street,  
Carson City, NV 89701

Dear Governor Sisolak:

Thank you for your service to the State of Nevada. I am writing to you today as a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. I serve as a Stake President and have responsibility for 11 congregations in Las Vegas and Pahrump. My purpose in writing is to respectfully request that we be allowed to increase the number of our members authorized to gather for church services; not only for ourselves; but, for all religious organizations.

With this request, we also pledge our commitment to continue to use an abundance of caution to keep our members safe and provide an environment where they can come to worship without fear. This commitment includes following these guidelines:

1. Thoroughly cleaning the buildings and sanitizing them before each gathering and re-sanitizing the high touch points between each meeting (which includes door handles, pews, sacrament trays, faucets, water fountains, chair backs, handrails, microphones, etc.).
2. We will provide hand sanitizer in auto dispensers in the foyers for all to use as they enter.
3. We will require all who have any symptoms to stay home (including ecclesiastical leaders).
4. All who participate in any part of the service will wear masks and will also wash their hands, use alcohol-based sanitizer and wear gloves before handling any part of the Sacramental emblems.
5. We will not sing or have choirs sing. We will only listen as the hymns are played.
6. We will wear masks except to partake of the Sacrament and then replace the masks (except for small children and others that fall under the prescribed exceptions in Directive 024, effective June 25, 2020).
7. We will seat members to provide physical distancing in our chapels and we will have a shortened meeting schedule to provide minimal gathering time.

We have followed these guidelines for 45 days with no adverse impacts. Please allow us to increase the number of our members that may gather to worship and enjoy the fellowship with each other.

Respectfully,



David V. Walker  
President, Las Vegas Nevada Blue Diamond Stake

THE CHURCH OF  
JESUS CHRIST  
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

Muddy River Ward, Logandale NV

September 13, 2020

Dear Governor Sisolak,

We are writing you in our ecclesiastical capacity to request an increase in the number of parishioners permitted to attend church services and worship together in our state.

God is not the author of confusion, but of peace. (1 Corinthians, 14:33) Many people across Nevada, and the United States, are confused during this difficult time of a pandemic. They are without peace, our Savior Jesus Christ stated, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." (John 14:27) Allowing an increase to the number of parishioners will provide peace from a loving God, this peace can not be bought or sold.

We offer our assurance that we have and will continue to take proactive steps in order to mitigate the risk factors associated with COVID-19 to a sufficient degree that the pre-pandemic number of congregants would be able to voluntarily participate in weekly services safely.

Among those steps are social distancing by separating congregants by family and instructing them to sit in every other pew rather than right next to each other, opening up auxiliary rooms in our church buildings in order to increase space and spread parishioners out, requiring churchgoers to wear masks, using sanitizing chemical sprays to clean pews, door handles, railings, etc. after each church session, and shortening the length of our services in order to further limit exposure.

Additionally, we feel it noteworthy that those attending our services are from the same community and broken down into a units called "wards" that cover even smaller geographical boundaries. As such, those who attend are the same people each week (with very few exceptions) who live around and associate with each other regularly even outside of church, unlike the patrons of large casinos who are often visitors from out of state, grouping in very condensed settings, and congregating daily rather than weekly. Given the permissiveness of gathering to gamble in much larger groups, oftentimes from all over the country and world, on a daily basis, we feel it is safer for local members of small geographic boundaries to meet once a week, for a maximum of two hours, to worship in accordance with our constitutionally protected First Amendment rights.

Although we strive to be responsible citizens and examples to others, we find it difficult to accept what seems to be a trivialization of our religious freedom according to the first amendment. While governments, businesses and industries place importance on gambling, shopping, liquor stores, marijuana dispensaries, sport venues and revenue generation. We solemnly declare that a sure knowledge of Christ will change human behavior which will bring this world to a better place. From a modern-day prophet of God, "Christ changes men, and changed men can change the world."

Finally, it's important to note church attendance is voluntary. Those who feel at a greater risk to contracting the virus or who are uncomfortable attending for any reason are free to stay home. Those who choose to attend church are doing so with a full understanding of the risks associated with attending church. Like the risk of getting food at a grocery store or watching a movie, however

THE CHURCH OF  
JESUS CHRIST  
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

Muddy River Ward, Logandale NV

they are yearning to exercise the religious freedom with which we have all been endowed by God, our Creator.

We are formally petitioning you to relax the restriction on religious congregation and allow Nevadans the freedom to worship according to the dictates of our own conscience and according to our own will.

Respectfully,

Bishop Ryan Wheeler  
Lance Turner, 1st Counselor  
Ryan Anderson, 2nd Counselor

Muddy River Ward  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

THE CHURCH OF  
**JESUS CHRIST**  
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

LAS VEGAS NEVADA DESERT FOOTHILLS STAKE

13 September 2020

The Honorable Steve Sisolak  
State Capitol Building  
101 N. Carson Street  
Carson City, NV 89701

Re: Gathering Size Limitations for Religious Services

Dear Governor Sisolak:

I am the volunteer ecclesiastical leader for the Las Vegas Nevada Desert Foothills Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The Desert Foothills Stake includes seven separate congregations located in the Desert Shores and Summerlin area of Las Vegas, each of which is comprised of approximately 400–500 members of our faith.

I write to urge a relaxing of the current 50-person meeting limit imposed on religious gatherings. We recognize that careful management of public gatherings is necessary to limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Our members are committed to take appropriate precautions to help limit the virus's spread.

The current 50-person meeting limit is overly restrictive for our congregations given the size of our physical meeting spaces and the burden placed on our congregational leaders. At normal capacity, our meetinghouses are designed to accommodate between 200 and 250 people in the chapel, with overflow space that holds an additional 300+ people. Given the scale of our facilities, we can easily accommodate meetings of 100 or more while observing appropriate social distancing requirements imposed by civic leaders and public health agencies.

Since we have resumed our Sunday meetings under the current 50-person limit, we have instituted detailed procedures to ensure that our services are held in strict compliance with all recommended or required guidelines for limiting the spread of the virus and that our physical space is properly sanitized and disinfected. For example, we have:

- Limited the seating in our chapels to ensure social distancing of all attendees;
- Ensured that all who attend our services wear face coverings;
- Made hand sanitizer available at all entrances;
- Adjusted the administration of our sacrament to ensure that is done in a completely sanitized and socially distanced manner; and
- Significantly enhanced the frequency with which our facilities are disinfected or sanitized

We believe that these efforts, combined with the size of the physical space in which we meet, will permit us to meet in larger groups while still ensuring the safety of all attendees and limiting the risk of COVID-19 exposure.



It is important for us, as members of the Church of Jesus Christ, to be able to come together, exercise of our faith together, and partake of the sacramental ordinance that is fundamental to our faith.

We recognize that you have the responsibility to develop policies that best promote the safety of all Nevadans. Our members have a long history of being good citizens, we are committed to supporting our political leaders and to honor, obey, and sustain the law. We are confident that, even with a meeting limit of 100 or more, we can appropriately adhere to all necessary restrictions to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

We thank you for your efforts to protect Nevadans; may you be blessed in your service to our great state.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Horsley', with a stylized, cursive script.

Stephen B. Horsley  
President

THE CHURCH OF  
**JESUS CHRIST**  
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

LAS VEGAS NEVADA EAST STAKE

September 13, 2020

TO: Governor Stephen F. Sisolak  
State Capitol Building  
101 N. Carson Street  
Carson City, NV 89701

FROM: Las Vegas Nevada East Stake  
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints  
4040 E Wyoming Av  
Las Vegas, NV 89104  
c/o  
Lee S. Timothy  
6930 Cedar Basin Ave  
Las Vegas, NV 89142

SUBJECT: LEAP Petition to the Governor's Office

The Honorable Governor Sisolak,

My name is Lee S. Timothy and I am the Stake President of the Las Vegas Nevada East Stake for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. My assigned congregants number over 3,500 individuals incorporating the Las Vegas metro areas of 89101, 89104, 89142, and 89122.

We, as a Stake, have been diligent in adhering to the directives placed on churches since the outbreak in regards to social distancing, masks and proper cleanliness but I am writing this letter asking that you would consider relaxing the current limit on the number of people allowed to gather.

As I am certain you are aware, the White House has recently upgraded Nevada's status from Red to Yellow and after 6 months of social separation, high unemployment, closed schools and closed churches, my families are in desperate need of face-to-face (mask to mask) shepherding. The total East Stake congregants of 3,500 people represent six, separate congregations that meet in three separate buildings within the above noted zip codes. Our church meeting houses are designed with large overflow areas that would allow for proper social distancing.

We continue to be diligent in limiting the number of congregants and choral singing and have taken special precautions in the administration of our sacrament.

We firmly believe that church is essential for the well-being of Nevadans and that it will provide for a faster healing to the communities as we overcome the effects of this deadly disease.

Please consider our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Lee Timothy', written in a cursive style.

Lee Timothy  
Stake President

CC: Jim Gibson, Clark County

THE CHURCH OF  
**JESUS CHRIST**  
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

Las Vegas Nevada Shadow Mountain Stake

Dear Governor Sisolak,

Thank you for all you've done in keeping Nevada residents safe. It's been a difficult six months.

I join with other faith leaders to request an increase in the number allowed for gatherings. The buildings of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints are very well cared for and large enough for social distancing.

In addition, members of our faith are good at following instruction for safety guidelines of masks and cleaning.

May I suggest a limit of 100 people or half of the rated capacity, whichever is less? This seems it would cover churches of all sizes without really pushing for large groups in small spaces.

Thanks for your consideration.



Brian Stucki  
Shadow Mountain Stake President  
Las Vegas, NV

THE CHURCH OF  
**JESUS CHRIST**  
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

LAS VEGAS NEVADA PARADISE STAKE

September 13, 2020

Governor Stephen F. Sisolak  
State Capitol Building  
101 N. Carson Street  
Carson City, NV 89701

Dear Governor Sisolak,

We are writing this letter to you today to respectfully request that you allow religious organizations to hold worship and other services of at least 50% of a building's capacity provided such organizations continue to adhere to safety protocols.

We who have signed this letter are the leadership of nine congregations of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, representing about 4500 members. Although we were grateful to eventually have been authorized to resume meetings with a limit of 50 persons in attendance, these limits have hindered our ability to provide the massive amount of ongoing community service we are accustomed to. Our congregations have had to have multiple separate worship services per day to be able to accommodate the members who can still attend in person. Some congregations have had to have up to five services per Sunday to accommodate their membership. This means that congregations that utilize the same building have been forced to meet on separate Sundays. For some congregations, this has resulted in meeting only every other week or even just once a month.

We have appointed persons to oversee sanitizing the church facilities before and after each of the different worship services. These individuals have been instructed on how to keep the church facilities sanitized and how to train others to do so as well. We have also implemented that every other row be left vacant and attendees are directed to sit at least six feet away from the next family or individual that would be on the same bench. In most cases, people are actually sitting 30 to 40 feet apart since our chapels can actually accommodate several hundred attendees.

Attendees have been obedient to these protocols and have also been asked to not congregate after the services, but to exit quickly in an orderly fashion from the building following our brief meetings of about 30 minutes. We have had no singing by the congregations or any choirs and will continue to do so until it is safe. Each person who comes into the church building is required to wear a mask and will continue to do so until it is safe to not wear one.

In regard to us serving the sacrament (communion) in our worship services, we have instituted the following procedures:

1. The trays we use for the passing of the sacrament are sanitized before and after each use.
2. Those who are preparing the sacramental bread and water have washed and sanitized their hands and wear latex gloves and face coverings before, during and after this portion of our meeting.

3. The bread is being broken into small separate cups for each piece of bread and the cups are then separated in a tray so that those who partake only touch the piece of bread they select and not any other piece of bread. The same for the water cups which are handled in different trays. The recipient then takes the cup out of one tray, removes the mask to eat the bread or water and puts the cup into another tray for trash only or into a trash bag and then puts their mask back into place.
4. Also, no one in the congregation handles the bread or water trays. Only those individuals described above who wear the latex gloves and face masks handle the sacrament trays and distribute them to each person individually until all the congregation has partaken.
5. Bathrooms and doorways into and out of the buildings are also sanitized before and after each congregation uses the building.

We respectfully request that you authorize an increase to the number of individuals allowed to worship together. We will continue with the above-referenced safety procedures for as long as required. But authorizing larger congregations to assemble will significantly reduce the time our leaders spend away from their families and allow more members to worship together regularly each Sunday rather than once a month or not at all.

Our understanding is that religious institutions are one of the few, if not the only, organizations not authorized to operate at at least 50% capacity. We submit that our work is essential to the spiritual, psychological and emotional health of your citizens and your community. Among many other things, our members and other partners regularly provide large amounts of community service including but not limited to serving refugees, counseling, welfare services, food for the poor, employment services, English classes, literacy classes, addiction recovery classes, financial assistance for necessities of life for those in need, helping people move in or out of their apartments, etc. Our sacrament meetings are integral to our worship and the unity of our congregation as we provide these services and many more to your community on an ongoing basis.

Our chapels and sacrament services are far cleaner than your citizens experience every day at gas stations and grocery stores. We respectfully request that we be allowed to hold sacrament and other meetings at at least 50% of capacity starting immediately to better enable our congregations to meet and strengthen each other as we provide vital services to our communities.

Sincerely,

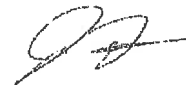
The Paradise Stake Presidency



John Michaelson  
President



Riley Polson  
First Counselor



John Faught  
Second Counselor

THE CHURCH OF  
**JESUS CHRIST**  
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

Henderson Nevada Carnegie & Stake

Dear Governor Sisolak,

I am a practicing dentist here in Las Vegas, having moved to Henderson in 1992. I raised my family here. I am also non-paid clergy for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. For the last decade I have been responsible for 8 congregations in Henderson, fluctuating between 2800 – 4500 members.

Once we entered the pandemic, our congregations did not meet again until August. We are now meeting together in very carefully sanitized conditions of 50 members or less. We are learning to spend the time and effort necessary to clean, disinfect and sanitize our chapels between meetings to protect ourselves and others. We have carefully followed the directions given to us by you and the State of Nevada. We have trained teams of our members to be meticulously involved in the process at before and after each meeting.

Much has been said about Churches being an essential service. I agree with this, and it's true for many reasons. One of the strongest arguments in favor of returning to church in greater numbers is based on the understanding that no society can ever hire enough police to manage a society that wants to break the law. Now we see that kind of lawless society more and more. Encouraging citizens to be reminded of accountability to God to treat our fellowmen with dignity and respect, and be reminded to be law abiding citizens, is a goal for any civilized society to seek.

We would appreciate your approval for our congregations to meet in greater numbers, (at least 100 or more) in the similar way to the numbers in retail, restaurants, and the casinos.

We appreciate your service to the State of Nevada,

Warmest Regards,

 DDS

David Gates DDS

Carnegie Stake

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

THE CHURCH OF  
**JESUS CHRIST**  
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

LAS VEGAS NEVADA SUNRISE STAKE

Sunday, September 13, 2020

Governor Stephen F. Sisolak  
State Capitol Building  
101 N Carson St  
Carson City, NV 89701

Dear Governor Sisolak:

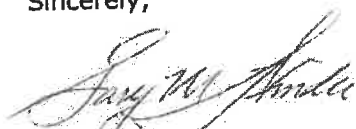
As the stake presidency for the Las Vegas Nevada Sunrise Stake of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, *we are writing to request your support to increase the number of individuals allowed to gather at the same time during church worship services.* The chapel size at all of our church buildings will facilitate more attendees (beyond the current limit of fifty) during sacrament meetings while still implementing social distancing guidelines.

Currently, we have been holding a "limited" version of sacrament meetings within each of the wards in the Sunrise Stake allowing no more than fifty (50) individuals to meet at the same time. Please know that a number of safety protocols have been put in place—which have been followed explicitly and none of which have proven to be a time burden:

- All entering the church building are required to wear masks and utilize one entrance/exit area. Hand sanitizer is provided at the chapel entrance. Social distancing is employed for seating with half of the pews not being utilized. Greetings no longer include hand shaking or hugs.
- Those who participate in the ordinance of the sacrament sanitize their hands and then wear gloves while preparing, passing and blessing the sacrament. Separate trays/paper bags are utilized for the disposal of small plastic water cups. All tables and trays are sanitized between meetings and linens are laundered weekly.
- Each sacrament meeting is limited to approximately 30 minutes in length and socializing is discouraged both before and after the meeting. The chapel and entrance/exit area is sanitized both prior to and after each sacrament meeting.
- Anyone who is sick and/or has a temperature is advised to remain home.

We appreciate your service and concern for the residents of Nevada. At this time, we ask that you please consider the opportunity for increased church worship attendance limits. Our congregations have demonstrated their willingness to attend and follow the protocols put in place—and we have continually received comments of appreciation for the manner in which these meetings have been conducted. Gathering together for sacrament meeting has created greater unity, provided a sense of community and assisted many who are battling depression, anxiety and stress as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic.


Sincerely,



President Gary M. Winder



President J. Todd Gillins



President Michael B. Wixom



THE CHURCH OF  
**JESUS CHRIST**  
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

LAS VEGAS NEVADA SPRING MOUNTAIN STAKE

September 13, 2020

**Governor Stephen F. Sisolak**

State Capitol Building  
101 N. Carson Street  
Carson City, NV 89701

Dear Governor:

Supported by the success we have experienced recently in holding our religious service meetings, and considering the recent reduction in the daily number of Covid 19 cases in the Clark County area, I am writing this letter to express our desire to have the current restrictions on these types of gatherings lifted to a greater degree, particularly regarding the number of people allowed to attend.

I am the President of the Spring Mountain Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. We have 8 separate congregations in our organization, and a total membership of approximately 3,200.

We returned to our meetings about two months ago, practicing social distancing, good sanitation habits and having no more than 50 in attendance at a time. We have been extremely careful to protect the health and safety of the members. We have conducted dozens of worship meetings and have experienced no sickness or transmission of the Covid 19 virus in that time.

A summary of the manner in which we are conducting our meetings, and some of the precautions we are taking are provided below:

- *Those who are sick in any way, including sneezing, coughing, feverish, shortness of breath, headache, runny nose, or sore throat, or have potentially been exposed to the coronavirus should not attend the meeting.*
- *Unless there is a medical reason otherwise, face masks will need to be worn by all members age 8 and older.*
- *Social distancing must be observed by all before, during, and after the meeting. Members of the same family may sit together, but others should maintain at least 6' of distance while entering the building, sitting in the congregation, and leaving. This includes the leadership of the ward and others sitting on the stand.*

- *The entry doors to the building and to the chapel will be held open so members do not have to touch the handles.*
- *The Buildings will be carefully cleaned and sanitized prior to each meeting.*
- *Government restrictions and regulations pertaining to the meetings will be followed.*

*Adequate sanitizing/cleaning supplies are in stock with the stake and wards. A stockpile of facemasks is available for use. Disposable covers and table clothes have been procured for the Sacrament Table.*

*A training meeting was held prior to the resumption of meetings in which Bishoprics and Building Cleaning Coordinators were instructed on how to properly clean and sanitize the building after meetings.*

*It is ensured that as a minimum the following is done:*

- *Doorknobs and handles, light switches, microphones, organs, pianos, pulpits and bench tops and arm rests are wiped down with a virus killing sanitizer.*
- *Sacrament instruments and the Sacrament Table are sanitized.*
- *Hymn books are removed from the pews.*
- *Hand sanitizer is available in the building foyers.*
- *Soap for handwashing is available in the restrooms.*
- *Drinking fountains are turned off and wrapped.*
- *There will be no printed programs. Announcements and information generally included in the ward bulletin or program will be distributed to the members by email.*
- *Signs are posted in the restrooms reminding the members to wash their hands and practice other good precautionary measures.*

*The Sacrament Meetings are limited to an attendance of 50, including leadership. Bishops are responsible for inviting portions of the ward membership in a way that this number is never exceeded.*

*Sacrament Meeting length will be 30-35 minutes. A member of the Bishopric will conduct, and generally preside. The hymns will be played, but not sung. The pulpit and microphone will be wiped down with disinfectant between each use.*

*The Sacrament will be prepared by healthy Priesthood holders who will wash their hands and use sanitizer prior to the preparation of the Sacrament Table, trays, bread, and water. Those who prepare the Sacrament will wear masks. New, disposable table clothes and covers will be used for each meeting.*

*Only two Priesthood holders will be at the Sacrament Table. Those at the Sacrament Table will wear masks and use hand sanitizer in full view of the congregation, then put on sanitary gloves prior to the breaking of the bread. All Priesthood holders who are passing the Sacrament to the members will have washed their hands and used hand sanitizers prior to the meeting and will be wearing masks and sanitary gloves.*

*The bread will be broken, and each piece placed in a small cup that is normally used for the water. The cups with bread will be in the Sacrament trays and will be spaced apart. Members can take the cup and partake of the bread. A second Priesthood holder will follow with an empty tray into which the cups can be discarded.*

*The water will be in small cups placed in the Sacrament trays in the usual manner, except that the cups will be spaced apart. Members can take the cup and partake of the water, then discard the cup in a second tray that follows, same as is being done with the bread.*

*Member will be channeled to sit in at least every other pew, leaving an open pew in front of the which can be used by the Priesthood holders to pass. This will eliminate the need for any of the member to touch the Sacrament trays.*

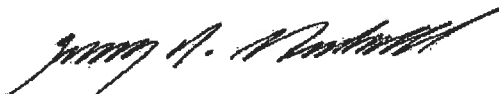
*The cleanup of the Sacrament will be overseen by a member of the Bishopric. All necessary sanitation guidelines will be observed.*

I have attended many of the meeting we have held since the guidelines above were put in place. The leaders of each of the congregations have done an excellent job in adhering to the requirements. I have personally felt very safe when in the environment of these religious services.

We strongly petition that you relax the limitation of 50 attendees at a religious meeting or gathering. We have the room in our buildings to have at least double that number and be able to maintain the social distancing prescribed. We will continue to practice all the precautions and safeguards described in the body of this correspondence.

We appreciate your consideration of our request and wish you the best as you strive to safely guide the State through the pandemic.

Respectfully,



Gregg N. Mendenhall, President  
Las Vegas Nevada Spring Mountain Stake

THE CHURCH OF  
**JESUS CHRIST**  
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

Las Vegas Nevada Skye Canyon Stake

The Honorable Stephen F. Sisolak  
Governor of the State of Nevada  
State Capitol Building  
101 N. Carson Street  
Carson City, NV 89701

Dear Governor Sisolak,

We have enjoyed gathering for worship services in the Northwest Valley since early July after approval was granted. Members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints have taken to heart the guidelines set forth by local authorities to reduce the spread of Covid-19. It is a tenet of our faith to be aligned and 'subject' to state and local governments wherever the Saints reside and to be responsible law-abiding citizens. We have 10 congregations in the Northwest Valley that form a geographical 'stake', (see attached map) with a Bishop over each congregation. Those Bishops are now very adept to the protocols set forth to ensure a safe gathering.

Here are some examples of strict measures we have set forth within our worship services:

- every other pew is 'taped off' to satisfy social distancing between individuals and families.
- masks are required to be worn at all times throughout our church meetings
- apps such as 'sign up genius' are used to ensure that max attendees are capped at 45-50 so as to have better control on the amount of attendees and to eliminate any surprises.
- extensive cleaning of the building in between services with proper sanitization supplies
- weekly assessments of each congregation of known Covid cases among Latter-day Saints. (Over the 6 months of assessments within our stake of 3700 congregants, 15 report cases of Covid-19 and 0 deaths associated with Covid-19).

Now that we have this depth of experience for nearly 3 months, **we are requesting that allowable attendees be increased from 50 to 100.** Under normal circumstances, our meetinghouses can comfortably accommodate (depending on the type of gathering) up to 1200 individual members of the church. Stake conferences, which are semiannual meetings of multiple congregations, typically have 1200 members in attendance. Single weekly congregational gatherings can have anywhere between 200-250 individuals in attendance. Because of the vast space available, we feel strongly that the increase to 100 can easily be accommodated under the current social distancing guidelines.

We pray for you as well as all local authorities throughout these challenging times. We know that brighter days are ahead as we press forward together with faith!

Sincerely,



President Michael C. Gardner  
Las Vegas Nevada Skye Canyon Stake

THE CHURCH OF  
JESUS CHRIST  
OF LATTER DAY SAINTS

MOAPA WARD  
LOGANDALE NEVADA STAKE

September 13, 2020

Governor Stephen F. Sisolak  
State Capitol Building  
101 N Carson Street  
Carson City, NV 89701

Governor Sisolak,

My name is Chad Leavitt. I serve as the Bishop of the Meadow Valley Ward in Moapa Nevada. I am a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. I am a lifelong resident of the State of Nevada.

I am writing this letter to request that the limit on the number of people allowed to congregate at religious services be increased. We have been 100% complying with the mandates on social distancing, mask wearing, sanitizing, etc. to protect our members and to be good citizens. I believe it would be a blessing to our church members to be able to congregate together and worship together. There is great strength in fellowshiping when we are able to look into each other's eyes. People are struggling and seeking solace and comfort in their worship of God.

We will continue to 100% comply with all mandates to keep our people safe and secure. We commit to continue to wearing our masks while congregating. We will continue to practice social distancing while worshipping in our chapels houses of worship. We presently only listen to our hymns instead of singing them to prevent the spread of germs. We carefully sanitize surfaces, sacrament trays, hands that prepare the sacrament, and do all we can to minimize the spread of germs while distributing the sacraments to members of the congregation.

We can comply with all of the mandates and keep our church members safe in much larger numbers. Our building is large and there is adequate space to social distance with while accommodating many more people. Our greatest desire is the physical and spiritual welfare of our church members.

Please act and increase the allowed number of people allowed to gather for religious services.

Sincerely,



Bishop Chad Leavitt  
Meadow Valley Ward  
PO BOX 471  
Moapa, NV 89025